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News Release

NWT Biathlete Shares Podium with Olympians

Whistler Olympic Park, Callagan Valley (March 27, 2008) - For the first time ever, NWT Biathlon was able to place an athlete on the podium in the Senior Men's category at the Canadian Biathlon Championships. The competition was even more intense than usual this year, with the inclusion of the powerful American Men's Team recently returned from the World Cup season and eager to test out the newly completed 2010 Olympic venue. Altogether, 5 Olympic athletes from the Turino Games were present in the field of 26 entrees. In an extraordinary race, Hay River's Brendan Green rose to the biggest challenge of his rookie season in the Men's category to finish third and share the podium with the Olympians.

Green fired his way onto the podium in the Men's 20 km Individual event which kicked off on Thursday. With a minute penalty for each miss, Brendan went into Thursday's race with a strong focus on shooting. "I knew I had to shoot as well or better than the World Cup veteran's to be competitive in today's race. The field here is very strong with a lot of athletes familiarizing themselves with the venue for 2010. I know my skiing is usually on par so I had to put a lot of focus into the shooting today and took my time in the range to ensure I hit as many targets as possible," commented Green. Brendan got off to a shaky start with two misses in his first bout of prone but was able to get a necessary sight correction from Coach Pat Bobinski. Once settled into a steady and relaxed rhythm, Brendan went on to shoot clean in both bouts of standing and collected only one additional penalty in prone to finish in third place. American Tim Burke, who placed 7th in this event at this year's World Championships, collected only two shooting penalties to win the event with a time 52:44.7. Robin Clegg, a nine year veteran of the Canadian senior team who had his career best result on the World Cup this season, collected three penalties to take second. It is interesting to note that Robin Clegg has a special connection to the NWT in that he started his racing career in Yellowknife as a youngster.

After the race an elated Green commented, "Today really couldn't have gone much better for me. I had some frustrating results after Christmas so to finish the season with a result like this is amazing, especially to do this in my rookie season as a senior athlete. To have such a great race at the debut of the 2010 Olympic venue is awesome. Who knows, maybe this is sign of good things to come in the near future!"

Brendan came so close to another victory in the 10 km Sprint. With only 1 miss in the first round of prone shooting, Brendan made up enough time in the skiing to put him into medal contention. Unfortunately, his last standing shot was a miss. Overtaken while doing the penalty loop, he missed the podium by seconds and had to settle for a 6th place finish. Since an American athlete is not eligible to hold the Canadian title, Brendan received the silver medal for the Canadian Championships in the Individual, and is credited with a 5th place finish in the Sprint.

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